

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04142 240737Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00
CIAE-00 /026 W

-----034918 240739Z /11/53

O R 231749Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8833
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T BEIRUT 4142

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y ADD SIGNATURE (PARKER)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, PEPR, SY, LE
SUBJECT: REMARKS OF DANY CHAMOUN AND JOHNNY ABDU ON CURRENT
SITUATION

REF: BEIRUT 4141 (NOTAL)

1. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, DANY CHAMOUN TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR
ABOUT 16:30 HOURS LOCAL, JULY 23, AND SAID THAT SYRIANS HAD
STARTED SHELLING OF HADATH WITHOUT PROVOCATION. CHAMOUN
ALSO SAID THAT SITUATION WAS VERY DANGEROUS AND THAT
FIGHTING HAD BEGUN TO SPREAD TO FURN ASH SHUBBAK.

2. AMBASSADOR CALLED PRESIDENT SARKIS SHORTLY AFTER
TALKING WITH CHAMOUN. SARKIS SAID HE PREFERRED NOT TO
DISCUSS SITUATION ON PHONE AND SENT JOHNNY ABDU TO RESIDENCE

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TO BRIEF AMBASSADOR. ABDU SAID THERE WAS NO APPARENT REASON
FOR SHELLING OF HADATH. ABDU CLAIMED THAT CHRISTIANS HAD
BEEN PROVOKING SYRIANS IN AYN AR-RUMMANAH, BUT NOT IN
HADATH. ABDU SAID THAT HE DOUBTED STORY THAT NLP
MILITIAMEN HAD WOUNDED OR KILLED TWO SYRIAN
SOLDIERS IN HADATH IN JULY 21. (BASHIR GEMAYEL, HOWEVER,
TOLD GERMAN AMBASSADOR THAT TWO SYRIAN SOLDIERS HAD IN

FACT BEEN KILLED IN HADATH, BUT BY PALESTINIANS.
GERMAN AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT THERE WERE NO PALESTINIANS
ANYWHERE NEAR THE TOWN.)

3. ABDU ADDED THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE WAS WORRIED
ABOUT SYRIAN INTENTIONS. ABDU WONDERED WHETHER THE ARAB
STATES HAD GIVEN THE SYRIANS THE GREEN LIGHT TO GO AHEAD
AND CRUSH THE PHALANGE AND NLP. HE CITED THE VISITS OF
BOUMEDIENNE TO DAMASCUS AND OF KING HUSSEIN TO DAMASCUS AND
SAUDI ARABIA AS POSSIBLE INDICATIONS OF SUCH A SIGNAL.
(AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT HE SUSPECTED THE VISITS HAD
TO DO WITH THE CURRENT MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS, NOT
LEBANON.)

4. ABDU ALSO SAID THAT SYRIAN SPECIAL FORCES OFFICERS
HAD INITIATED SHELLING OF HADATH. THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF
THE SYRIAN UNIT AT ABBADIYAH HAD GONE TO SIBNAI, WHERE
MOST OF THE SYRIAN FIRING WAS COMING FROM, TO TRY TO CALM
THE SITUATION. (COMMENT: AT ABOUT 17:15 HOURS THE
FIRING DIED DOWN CONSIDERABLY, AND THE SITUATION IS STILL
RELATIVELY CALM AS OF 20:00 HOURS. END COMMENT.)

5. AMBASSADOR REMARKED THAT HE PLANNED TO MOVE TO WEST
BEIRUT MORNING OF JULY 24 AND ASKED HOW HE COULD STAY IN
TOUCH WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS. AT 18:30 HOURS ABDU
HAD SCRAMBLER DELIVERED TO AMBASSADOR SO THAT HE
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COULD HAVE SECURE COMMUNICATIONS WITH PALACE. AMBASSADOR
IS WAITING TO MAKE TEST CALL. PARKER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT04142
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780316-0504, D780302-0960
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780729/aaaaayko.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5b44f96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 BEIRUT 4141
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1912622
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REMARKS OF DANY CHAMOUN AND JOHNNY ABDU ON CURRENT SITUATION
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, PEPR, SY, LE, (CHAMOUN, DANY), (ABDU, JIHNY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5b44f96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014